

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-3 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as indefinite. Claims 1-3 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,316,838 to Kaname Ozawa et al. (hereinafter “Ozawa”) in view of remarks made by the Examiner. Claims 11-13 and 15-20 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,822,214 issued to Michael D. Rostoker et al. (hereinafter “Rostoker”) in view of remarks made by the Examiner or in view of Ozawa. Concurrent with the Notice of Appeal in this case, Appellants filed an amendment to Claim 1 to address the indefiniteness rejection. To date, the Appellants have not received an Advisory Action from the examiner indicating whether this amendment was entered. For the purpose of review during this appeal, the amendment to claim 1 is repeated herein. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended by adding the words “of the second contiguous region” after “said conductors” on line 7. In addition to the amendment discussed above to address the Examiner’s section 112 rejection, claim 1 has also been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. Support for these amendments may be found at least at paragraph 0001 and the abstract of Appellants’ specification. Claim 11 has also been amended to clarify the subject matter recited therein. Support for these amendments may be found at least at paragraph 0001, the abstract, paragraph 0070, and Figure 10 of Appellants’ specification. No new matter has been added.

Appellants believe these claim amendments are proper in accordance with MPEP §714.12 and MPEP §1207. These amendments do not add new matter to the claims and

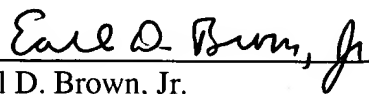
are responsive to new rejections asserted by the Examiner for the first time in his Final Office Action mailed April 3, 2003. More specifically, these amendments seek to clarify Appellants' invention in light of these new rejections and therefore put the rejected claims in better form for review upon appeal.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Appellants respectfully request that the above mentioned amendments be entered in this case prior to considering the claims on appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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